



Cllr Margaret Davidson  
Leader of the Council  
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Dear Cllr Davidson

### **Threats to funding for The Highland Council's ranger service**

I am writing on behalf of Scottish Environment LINK, to support the concerns expressed by our member organisation, the Scottish Countryside Rangers' Association, regarding the proposed closure of the Highland Council's ranger service due to budget constraints.

LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 35 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with a common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

Many of LINK's member organisations work closely with ranger services across Scotland. Rangers help our members engage with the general public to increase their understanding of the importance of our natural and cultural heritage. Ranger services are crucial in providing opportunities for people to become involved in environmental activities, for example by supporting volunteers to assist with the monitoring and recording of species in ecological and biological studies, thereby contributing to the delivery of Local Biodiversity Action Plans and other council obligations. Ranger services also play an important part in encouraging and helping the population to be more active in their local natural environment, which brings obvious public benefits in physical and mental health terms, as well as helping the council to reduce health inequalities.

We believe that investment in the ranger service delivers disproportionate benefits across society, both



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for Highland residents and visitors. We hope The Highland Council will reconsider its proposals and will continue to fund ranger services across the region.

Yours sincerely



Helen Todd  
Chair

Cc: Cllr Isobel McCallum, Convener  
Cllr Audrey Sinclair, Chair of Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee  
Cllr Maxine Smith, Leader of the Opposition  
Mr Steve Barron, Chief Executive  
Mr Stuart Black, Director of Development and Infrastructure